

REMARKS

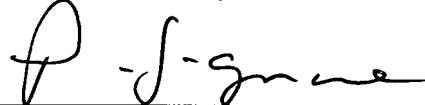
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are present in this application. The present preliminary amendment amends Claims 1-17 and adds new Claim 18. Applicants submit no new matter is added.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Marvin J. Spivak
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,913

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Registration No. 43,922

I:\ATTY\PJCS\MISCELLANEOUS\PJCS\PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTS\294627US-PA.DOC